

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/660,232

Applicant(s)

VOICU ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

LAM T. MAI

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/15/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 3/21/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Terminal Disclaimer***

The terminal disclaimer filed on 8/15/2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of pending application 10/660,222 filed on 9/10/2003, has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

### ***Specification***

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

### **Response to Amendment**

Applicant's amendment filed on 8/15/2005 has been considered and entered.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-36 are allowable.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed digital potentiometer comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitations of "a bulk impedance device having a first end coupled to the first end terminal of the first string, an opposite second end, and an impedance value greater than an impedance of the string of elemental

impedance devices" structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in claims 2-10.

Claim 11 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed digital potentiometer comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitations of "wherein the at least one bulk impedance device has an impedance approximately  $2^{n-1}$  times the impedance of one of the elemental impedance devices, and the string and the at least one bulk impedance device are disposed between the first and second reference terminals" structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in claims 12-19.

Claim 20 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed digital potentiometer comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitations of "at least one bulk impedance device, wherein the string and the at least one bulk impedance device are disposed between the first and second reference terminals, and the at least one bulk impedance device has an impedance greater than an impedance of the string" structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in claims 21-23.

Claim 24 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed method digital potentiometer comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitations of including "a bulk impedance device between the first and

second reference terminals, the bulk impedance device having an impedance greater than an impedance of the first string “ structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in claims 25-26.

Claim 27 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed method digital potentiometer comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitations of including “alternating the first string between providing impedance in a lower half of the  $2^n$  wiper positions and an upper half of the 2 wiper positions based on a first subportion of the n-bit wiper address, with the at least one bulk impedance device providing impedance in the one of the lower half and the upper half of the  $2^n$  wiper positions not provided by the first string “ structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in claims 28-32.

Claim 33 is allowed over the prior art of record. The prior art of record, considered individually or in combination, fails to fairly show or suggest the claimed digital potentiometer comprising, among other limitations, a novel and unobvious limitations of including “at least one bulk impedance device having an impedance greater than an impedance of the first string “structurally and functionally interconnected with other limitations in the manner as cited in claims 34-36.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

### **Cited References**

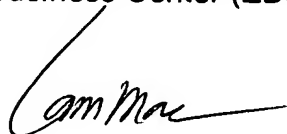
The prior art made of record and not replied upon is considered pertinent to application's disclosure. The cited references relate to instant application matter.

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM T. MAI whose telephone number is (571)272-1807. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pascal J. Robert can be reached on (571) 272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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PEGUY JEANPIERRE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER